

1. Procedure and policy for processing complaints from student victims to ensure the privacy and rights of victims.

USU complies with state law regarding protecting the privacy rights of victims. Information disclosed in investigations is shared only with those who need to know.

Additionally, the database system that USU uses to store and manage its police records can be partitioned so that access to the case files and records are limited. Access to the database system includes an audit trail that can be reviewed and monitored.

USU is currently in the process of changing its policy so that personal cell phones are not used for police department business. Officers will only be permitted to access USU email and police records on department-issued phones. The department issued phones will have auditing capabilities that will allow USU to review what materials are accessed and when.

2. How is sensitive evidence of crime being protected from in-department and out of department dissemination beyond that which is reasonably necessary to investigate and prosecute the crimes alleged. How long is evidence held and what is the policy for returning or destroying the evidence to victim at the conclusion of the case?

See answer to question number 1.

Evidence retention timelines vary from case-to-case and depend upon the nature of the crime, the harm involved, whether the case is prosecuted or not, and the outcome of the prosecution. USU police department coordinates with the County Attorney's office to determine when evidence should be destroyed and or items returned.

3. What measures are taken to discipline law enforcement officers who violate policy and procedures that would violate victim's privacy including reporting violations to Utah agencies that have oversight over law enforcement officers?

USU is currently in the process of revising its officer manual. Discipline decisions for violating victim's privacy depend on the aggravating or

mitigating circumstances present in the case. In the instance of a significant policy violation, USU police would coordinate closely with POST.

4. What training has been given to campus law enforcement officers regarding best practices and procedures for handling victims reporting crimes—especially crimes involving sexual violence, criminal stalking and dating violence. Has law enforcement been given adequate training by professionals outside of the department?

USU police participate in the university's Sexual Violence Task Force efforts, including serving as members of the [Sexual Violence Task Force Implementation and Coordination Committee \(the ICC\)](#). The ICC meets monthly and regularly discusses best practices for responding to and preventing sexual violence, including trauma-informed practices. Once a year, the ICC holds a retreat to provide training on important issues related to sexual violence as well as group discussions and strategy sessions aimed at improving USU's prevention and response efforts.

Additionally, in June, the USU police department completed internal training on best practices for investigating sexual assaults and relationship violence. The training included information about how to work with victim advocates.

On June 22, 2020, Marlesse Jones from the Utah Prevention Council will train the entire department on evidence-based trauma informed investigative techniques, including how to identify drug & alcohol facilitated sexual assaults, how to identify relationship violence, effective report writing and evidence gathering. It will also include information on how to recognize and eliminate bias, based on sex in policing. Two Department of Public Safety Special Agents, and a Sex Assault nurse will be assisting in the teaching process.

Information about past training efforts can also be made available.

5. Does the campus provide victim advocate resources for students? How is this information regarding availability of victim advocate resources being delivered to students?

USU provides victim advocate resources to all members of the campus community. Advocacy services are primarily provided by our [Sexual Assault](#)

[Anti-Violence Information office \(SAAVI\)](#). USU has also developed strong relationships with community partners, such as CAPSA, which also provides advocacy services to USU community members.

Recently, USU Police added an additional advocate who is housed directly in the USU police department. For more information, including a video about this added advocacy service see:

<https://www.usu.edu/today/story/usus-department-of-public-safety-hires-new-investigator-and-victim-advocate>

USU shares information about advocacy services in a variety of ways. This information is provided directly to victims by our Title IX Office, SAAVI, and faculty and staff. It is available on various websites. See, e.g.,

<https://equity.usu.edu/sexual-misconduct/sexual-assault-resources>.

Additionally, all student-facing offices distribute a discrete, pocket-sized sexual misconduct resource guide across campus, including in displays in restrooms. Among other things, the resource guide describes the availability of advocacy support and other support services. USU police provide a copy of this resource guide to all victims reporting incidents of sexual violence, stalking, and/or relationship violence. .

See: <https://www.usu.edu/sexual-respect/>

6. Are victims made aware of their right to obtain victim advocate support and how to access those resources? Are victims made aware of the availability of obtaining personal protective orders, including stalking, dating violence and sexual violence injunctions? Are they provided the forms or directions on how to access these self-help protections?

Yes. See answer to question 5. Additionally, USU is currently developing a procedure whereby the victim advocate will participate in the initial response to a report of an incident of sexual violence, stalking, and/or relationship violence.

7. After the most recent incident regarding alleged mishandling of evidence by law enforcement, how do you establish the confidence and trust of students in campus law enforcement and administration that their complaints will be handled seriously and with sensitivity so victims will feel comfortable in coming forward to report abuse and acts of violence inflicted on students

Building and maintaining the trust of the USU campus community requires daily action. USU police make great effort to build relationships on campus through community building efforts, including hosting and participating in campus events, attending student organization meetings, and being readily seen and available on campus. USU supports the university's sexual violence education and outreach efforts, including Walk a Mile in her shoes. And, critically, USU police take great care to investigate all cases reported to it in a professional and respectful way.

USU police provide the following commitment to victims of sexual violence:

USU's Commitment

- **Approaching your case with objectivity**, avoiding victim-blaming, and checking our own biases while investigating your case.
- **Meeting with you privately**. You are welcome to have a victim advocate present for emotional support.
- **Respecting your decision** whether to pursue an investigation and charges. Reporting does not commit you to a full investigation, and we respect your decisions if you change your mind.
- **Upholding state law** concerning medical amnesty. We will not pursue alcohol or drug charges against survivors.
- **Helping you obtain medical treatment** and a free sexual assault forensic exam.
- **Connecting you with victim advocacy support**, confidential counseling, safety planning and other resources throughout the investigation.
- **Treating you with courtesy** and professionalism.
- **Doing our best to accommodate your request** to meet with a female or male officer.
- **Handling your case with discretion** and not release your name to the public or media. Your parent or guardian will not be notified unless you are 17 or younger.
- **Conducting a thorough investigation** regardless of your age, race, gender or sexual orientation or that of the suspect.
- **Keeping you updated** throughout the process of the progress of any investigation or court proceedings.

<https://www.usu.edu/dps/police/sexual-assault>